

## FANCY DRESS FOR CHILDREN.

PRETTY COSTUMES AVAILABLE FOR HOLIDAY PARTIES.

**Their Cost in Money and Labor Not Great**—An Endless Variety of Characters In and Out of Fairyland From Which to Choose Fancy Costumes for Children.

Merrymaking is the order of the day and the grown-ups must not be allowed to monopolize the holiday festivity. They may spin around like penguins in the social whirl all through the season if it pleases them, but the Christmas holidays are the children's own time of freedom from school and routine, and there should be gay doings in the realm of the little folks, though heaven forbid that the small girls and boys should pose as miniature society folk, with all their elders' airs and vanities.

All sorts of children's parties are planned for the vacation season, and as a rule the more informal the party the greater its success; but of the more pretentious forms of entertainment the fancy dress party is perhaps the one best liked by the youngsters and least likely to fall flat.

Of course, fancy dress for children means



a certain amount of trouble for mothers, and there's a general feeling among lazy grown-ups that a fancy dress party is a nuisance; but after all, the costumes need not be a matter of great labor or expense, and a little cleverness in designing will bring about effects quite as satisfactory as those obtained at greater cost.

The Mother Goose Rhymes and the fairy tales offer an inexhaustible fund of suggestion for costumes; and a party at which all the costumes are chosen from Mother Goose may be a very picturesque affair; but when no restrictions are imposed it is the easiest thing imaginable to contrive a costume that will pass muster.

There's a theory that the small boy's outfit is a more puzzling problem than that of his sister, but, though the average boy doesn't lend himself readily to poetic expression and wouldn't be a distinguished success in the role of flower or fairy or angel, he may be made a very picturesque figure in his own way.

There, for instance, is the Pierrot costume of inexpensive white material, with the flaring ruche and the little close cap and the tiny rosettes that go with the baggy white suit. Even an uninspired novice might manage that, with the aid of a picture.

And the clown, too, is a merry fellow who doesn't need purple and fine linen or elaborate needlework, and whose costume could be made in a very short time by any one who can use a needle. For his facial make-up advice may be needed, unless memory of the last circus prompts sufficiently, or some picture book clown can be used as a model.

Little Boy Blue with his horn is a simply dressed character and a round little monk in frock and cowl doesn't call for trouble in costume. The Brownies are always in evidence where children wear fancy dress; and the gnomes, white whiskered, peak capped and all in brown or green, can be dressed at the expense of a few dollars and a little ingenuity.

The jester, with his parti-colored suit and his cap and bells, is another character suited to the boy and requiring little of the costumer.

When one comes to national costumes a host of possibilities open up. The mandarin, Pook Bah with robe and fan, the Dutch boy in frock and sabots, a Spanish toreador, the Arab, the Hindoo in robe and turban—all these are characters whose costumes are not too complex for whose costumes, and, if one cares to go in for home making, and, if there are historic costumes. The cavalier of England and the courtier of France in the time of the Louis are brave figures, even in miniature.

The Puritan of New England, the Quaker, the Colonial gallant, the Indian, the rough rider, the plantation dandy, are all American types adapted to fancy dress purposes. The rabbit, in cotton flannel skin, with only the wearer's face and hands and feet showing, can be made most effective, but the cutting and making of the rabbit skin requires considerable ingenuity. An astrologer, in black robe and cap, bedecked with gilt moons and stars and zodiacal figures, can be created out of a few yards of black sateen and a sheet or two of gilt paper, and Mephistopheles himself doesn't come high for the cost of his red tight.

Napoleon must have his traditional costume made correctly and of fairly good material, but he's a great success when well fitted out.

And speaking of things French reminds us that a cock in cap and apron is a jolly character for the boy whose mother doesn't want to spend much on his costume.

For the small girl there is an embarrassment of riches, and the only difficulty lies in the choosing.

First of all, let it be said that maternal prejudice, while indisputable, should be, so far as possible, laid aside while the question of choosing a costume is under consideration, and the character should be suitable for the child.

The awkward, homely, small girl who poses as graceful flowerets, fairy queens and gauzy angels at costume parties are calculated to rouse reflections upon the blindness of maternity and the cruelty of unseeing affection. Not one of those small maids, not even the homeliest, but could be made picturesque and effective if the right costume were selected for her and were cleverly made.

For the pretty girl there is the whole range of the flower kingdom, and, with tarlatan, gauze, or even with crepe paper good flower effects may be obtained, though, of course, more elaborate costumes, exquisite in design, color and material, may be concocted if money and artistic taste are brought to bear upon the problem.

Designers of stage costumes are often called upon for designs for fancy dress costumes, and with the help of a sketch in color even the home dressmaker may carry out a flower idea, while, for the clever woman, the flower itself is more enough.

The rose, the poppy, the lily and the sweet pea are all successfully carried out in fancy dress, and there is sketched here a thistle costume which has charming possibilities.

Then there are the miscellaneous characters, the witch with her pointed hat and broomstick, the Quaker maid in gray and white, the little grandmother in costume of yesteryear, with close cap, kerchief, full skirt, white stockings and black slippers, the Kate Greenaway girl, the fairy with wings and wand, the icicle, all glittering in cotton wadding and diamond dust; Little Red Riding Hood in scarlet cloak and hood, and with her basket on her arm, and the milkmaid in the milkmaid costume of poetry and carrying her little milking stool and pail.

The nations furnish the little Geisha, the Italian contadina, the Dutch girl, etc.

Out of the picture world one can gain



ideas for delectable little Reynolds and Gainsborough maids, with short waisted frocks and big caps and bigger muffs, or for dainty Watteau shepherdesses and for court ladies of Louis XVI's time, all befowered and beribboned, and brave in patches and powder.

Oh, there's practically no end to the costumes available for the small girl, and few of the costumes need be expensive unless the parents prefer to have them so.

The cheap cotton crepes, plain and flowered, are charming in color and graceful for drapery, and there is a host of other gay cotton stuffs very effective if artistically used. The new high backed costumes which have replaced satin, but are of much the same quality as that old favorite, come in the whole range of the season's colorings and, particularly in the shades of yellow and orange and pink are exceedingly attractive, offering a fair substitute for silk or satin.

Gauze, tarlatan, cheap swiss, albatross cloth and cotton flannel are all standard materials for the child's fancy dress; and if more expensive stuffs are used it is often possible so to cut and handle them that the materials may be utilized for regulation attire after they have served their purpose in the fancy costume.

## DRIED FISH AND DUCK.

Winter Delicacies Sent to This Country From China.

From the Hartford Courant.

There was joy among the Chinamen in Hartford yesterday, for Yuen, Sing & Co. received their supply of winter delicacies. The principal consignment was dried duck. This is as nice a dish as a Chinaman of moderate means can wish for, as a whole duck costs only 20 cents. The ducks are dressed with the head and feet left on and they are dried and stretched and salted until they look like a kite made of salt codfish. When treated in this way they last for years, and are as good as new. Although they are well dried and shriveled, there is considerable fat in them and placed in hot water they will swell up like scallops treated with a Chinese River. It is said that the dried ducks retain this fat and are therefore preferred to the ducks raised around here.

The Chinese dried fish that came with the ducks and the sausages can be likened to no fish in these waters. In describing them last night the salesman said that when they looked like a bunch of ropes and they were jumped out of the water. Then there were dried fish of minnow size and Chinese turnips, which are grown in South America.

## WOMEN'S CLUBS IN LONDON.

TOO ATTRACTIVE BY FAR, SOME OF THE MEN THINK.

**The English Woman's Idea of a Club Entirely Different From the American Woman's—She Has All the Advantages of a Good Hotel and the Rates Are Low.**

The woman's club in London knows it is an entirely different institution from the woman's club in America.

Here women's clubs are to a great extent composed of groups of women who meet at regular intervals for social recreation and the reading and discussion of papers on various subjects. They meet in rooms which they hire for the occasion in the fashionable hotels.

The London clubs are to a great extent women's hotels, with a restriction as to the guests. The women of title prominent in the lists of the most fashionable of the clubs, and the result is that the membership rolls are as notable socially as those of the best men's clubs in New York.

Englishmen are beginning to find that the women's clubs are, if anything, too attractive. They provide comfortable, even luxurious, homes for women. There are excellent chefs at the best of these clubs, and it has become the fashion for women members to invite their husbands and their men friends to luncheons, teas and dinners. There are smoking rooms in all the clubs, for smoking among women has not come under the ban in England as it has here.

The charges are extremely moderate, for the idea is that women in the professions may benefit by the advantages of the clubs, and that they do so is shown by the fact that nearly all the women of note in literature and art are active members of the prominent clubs, while the younger workers make their homes in the fine clubhouses along Piccadilly and Dover street. The Seaside, the Sandringham, a very exclusive organization which has closed temporarily owing to financial troubles; the Empress, the New Athenaeum and the Ladies' Army and Navy Club are among the best known. One of the most recent is the Lyceum Club, which is composed of literary women, including nearly all the notable bluestockings of England.

This club frankly announces its object as the advancement of the members through international organization. It is proposed to form committees in the different countries through which the work of members, especially those interested in art, may be sold.

Exhibitions are to be arranged in the various art centres, and the press influence of the club will be utilized so far as possible to forward the interest and success of such outings. In the same manner the women musical composers are to be aided by concerts at which their compositions will be



brought before the public. These concerts are to be given, not only in London, but in Berlin, Paris, Rome and elsewhere. Literary workers are also helped.

The Lyceum Club became quite famous early in the spring, when it was announced that it had obtained the quarters previously occupied by the best known of the London men's clubs at 128 Piccadilly. The house is beautifully arranged and decorated, and has all the facilities of a first class town club.

Its exterior is attractive, with second floor balconies overlooking the street and opening from the dining rooms. Its entrance hall is imposing, leading into a small reception room. Near by is a rest room, with dark shades and facilities for a quiet nap, while a billiard room, cloak room, dressing room and a bar are also provided.

On the second floor is a broad reception hall, around which run divans for hostesses or guests waiting for each other. On this floor also are the library and writing room, the private dining rooms and the café, with balconies, where coffee is often served in summer.

Bedrooms and suites occupy the floors above, reached by elevators. The New

York woman wandering in the midst of all this comfort and luxury cannot but wonder if such a club is not possible in America.

There is a large list of American women, including Elizabeth Marbury and Jeannette Glider. The dues for foreign members are merely nominal, while the requirements for dwelling and club privileges for members in London are very low.

In fact the financial affairs of this as well as of other London clubs are to a great extent taken care of by wealthy and influential men and women. If run on the self-sustaining basis it would be a question if they could maintain such establishments on such a low schedule of charges.

The Ladies' Field Club, which was a very fashionable organization, closed recently owing to money troubles, and the Sandringham also was forced to close on account of pecuniary embarrassment. The English woman's idea of her club is entirely different from the American woman's notion of a club, which is a means of social relaxation and a side issue. The English woman uses her club as a home, an office, and what is of far more importance in London than here, a good address.

The devotion of the English woman to her club and her close observance of club traditions for both sides to the women's club life of women of popular with the average Englishman. Of late some laws involving marital troubles sent the members of both sides to the women's clubs for evidence concerning meetings, luncheons and letters. They were met by an absolute refusal to divulge any of the private affairs of the club.

## TWO VIEWS OF A FLAT.

Showing How You Can Always Get Frank Criticism of Your Furniture.

When you want to rent your flat furnished prepare for criticism.

Your friends may not like your furniture, but they will not say so. If they think your flat is ill arranged they are not likely to mention it. Prospective tenants are not so considerate.

One of these looked the other morning at a flat that was to rent for \$50 a month. "I don't like it," she said, "but I will rent it," she said enthusiastically; "but it is exactly what we have been looking for, and I don't doubt that my wife will like it." I will telephone her to come and look at it.

After a while a wife came, accompanied by a friend. "You don't mean to say that John has taken this place," she exclaimed in apparent distraction, turned to the original tenant of the rooms. "How in the world could he have done such a thing!"

Then she walked into the second drawing room, her eyes still curiously uplifted. "Why, it's worse than the first one," she observed to her friend. "What did John see in the place?"

Through the suite of rooms she maintained the same unhappy look.

"Your husband did not definitely take the apartment," she said, "but he was amused at the frank distress of her

visitor, for she knew that the rooms were artistic and beautiful. "He said that he must hear your opinion."

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## LOST CHRISTMAS MONEY.

WAILS OF DISTRESS FROM MANY SHOPPERS LAST WEEK.

**Money Saved for Months for Holiday Gifts Gone by Weekend as Result of Shopper's Inability to Discover a Safe Way in Which to Carry Her Cash.**

A man who had business at the information department of a large store one day last week counted, in the fifteen minutes while he waited, no fewer than seven cases of frantic persons rushing up to the window to inquire for lost bags and pocket-books.

One of the sufferers was the hard working mother of a family of five, who was weeping over the loss of her purse, which contained \$50—all she explained, that she had saved, with untold difficulty, to give her little ones Christmas presents. Another was a child who had slipped her little purse "with a white bird painted on it" into the outside pocket of her coat and had found it missing when she felt for it five minutes later. With it went the \$25 she had saved and treasured for months for her Christmas shopping.

After the collection in the drawer had been searched unavailingly for the seventh time and the latest of the discouraged inquirers had turned away, the man who had been observing it all remarked that this was certainly an exceptionally unlucky day for the pocketbook.

The girl inside the window shook her head. "Nothing exceptional for a rush hour in Christmas week," she returned. "If you stay here for the rest of the afternoon you will learn something that may amaze you. But we get used to it. It is one of them after the other, the whole time."

"I don't know why it is that people will continue to be foolish enough to put all their money into one bag or purse and carry it into a crowd like this. Some people laugh at the woman who carries her money in her stockings, but she's a head wiser than a great many who don't."

"Only this morning a farmer and his wife came into the city bringing \$300 in a satchel. They were to buy clothing for the children and a sideboard for their dining room, and the Christmas presents, and I don't know what all, with that little hoard."

"While they were upstairs examining a rocking chair the man set the satchel on the floor for a moment, and when he turned to pick it up again it wasn't there. The woman wasn't in a crowded department of the store, either; but there are so many people who haunt the shops during this season, looking for just such chances. That's the reason, I suppose, that so few of the losses are ever recovered."

"Oh, very few are recovered. The other day a young woman lost \$150 which she had put in an envelope and stuffed inside her shirt waist. Some honest person picked that up, and when she discovered her loss and came flying to this window it was here waiting for her. But she was an exceptionally fortunate young woman."

"Blame the thieves are about the worst places imaginable to carry money in, but

student life in New York, here is one phase of it which I have never seen touched upon," said a young woman who is studying at one of the large art schools. "I mean the sweatshop work, by which dozens of us help to obtain our incomes."

"There are several such establishments at present flourishing in the city, and during my first two years of study in New York I paid my tuition entirely by doing piece work in two of them."

"Those who keep these sweat shops don't call them by that name, of course. In fact they give them the title of office, in order to escape paying the license which is required to run a factory. But sweat shops they are, nevertheless."

"One of the men for whom I used to work advertised to pay well for unique designs in menus, dinner cards, tally and dance cards, etc. The broader a number of art students to his office, with samples of all sorts."

"Whenever a student presented a clever design he would tell her that it was not just what he cared to pay a price down for, but that he would give her the exclusive right to color it. This meant that he would have her design printed upon several hundred or thousand of cards, as the case might be, and would pay her about four cents apiece to fill in the spaces with water colors."

"The finished work he could sell as 'hand painted' cards, at exclusive prices; but he did not think it necessary to explain this to the student. Generally, rather than make nothing on her design, the student would consent to the arrangement."

"It would be worth while for any one interested in studying the other side of art student life to visit one of these office sweatshops. The students are crowded together on both sides of long tables, painting away for dear life."

"When one is paid only three or four cents apiece for filling in a design which frequently requires the use of exclusive colors, it is precious. I remember once working hard for an entire week on a design which I had been given the exclusive right to color. At the end my bill was really laughable, it was so small."

"I also worked for another of these men who make a business of providing hand painted Christmas boxes to exclusive stores. On one occasion he offered us four cents apiece to fill in the butterflies on a special order of Christmas cards."

"A friend of mine and I sat at the table with a watch between us and kept count to see how many butterflies we could color in a minute. In single afternoon I finished almost 40 of them."

"Generally, however, when a student gets to work as quickly as the men try to outdo rates on her, and make her accept two or three cents apiece instead of the four or five promised. When this happened we used to threaten to go out and inform the authorities of the class of work that was going on in their establishments. This always brought them to terms."

"I think nothing shows what some students in New York have to endure in order to earn their tuition better than the fact that in spite of the hard work and wretched pay, the men who conduct these art sweatshops have no trouble in finding students willing to accept their terms."

In fact, they have always on file a long list of applicants for work in their offices."

giving, and worked day and night for weeks getting the raisins stoned, currants stemmed and nuts cracked.

The recipe for the pudding had been handed down in the family from mother to daughter, and it was the one thing she knew how to do well. First, she began by supplying friends, but finally orders began to come in from strangers, until now her fame is established.

Handmade dolls is the ladder by which the other woman expects to climb to fame and fortune. And she certainly is well on the way, for she has sold 100 dolls at \$5 each within the past two months.

Graduating from one of the well known colleges for women, she tried several ways of earning her living. Every department seemed to be filled with a waiting list that was most discouraging.

Her dolls, made for some time member of the household, had always been admired hugely. It gave her the clue to the industry which is now on a firm footing, with fine prospects for the future.

She has orders from several big firms in the city to supply dolls with ray babies, and also contributes to a large personal clientele.

Jack, the clever police horse at Thirty-fifth street and Sixth avenue, has already won his way into the hearts of women shoppers. His admirers stand sometimes rows deep at the curb watching his antics. Many of them come supplied with sugar and apples, just to watch him hunt for the goodies which he now expects.

Between himself and his master there is the greatest sympathy, and he will follow like a dog when the policeman takes a brisk walk up and down the street to get the blood in circulation after prolonged service at directing traffic. Then there will be a game of tag, the officer hiding behind the pillars while Jack hunts him up, neighing his delight at the sport.

Scouting apples in the pocket of his master the clever horse will not until he finds them. One day the apples were surreptitiously transferred to the pocket of a foot policeman; but Jack followed the scent like a hunting dog, and his final success elicited howls of delight from the sidewalk audience.

"If a woman hasn't a fad, there's something wrong with her," remarked an observer of womankind. "She's in love, or out of it, or her liver is out of order."

"American girls are the greatest for taking up new cults. Now, an English girl settles down to doing one thing, and sticks to it, and nothing short of an earthquake or a dynamite explosion will turn her out of the way of it."

"But you just suggest to an American girl that some new physical exercise will give her a plump neck, rosy cheeks, and any other old thing, and she will do nothing else for—well, until